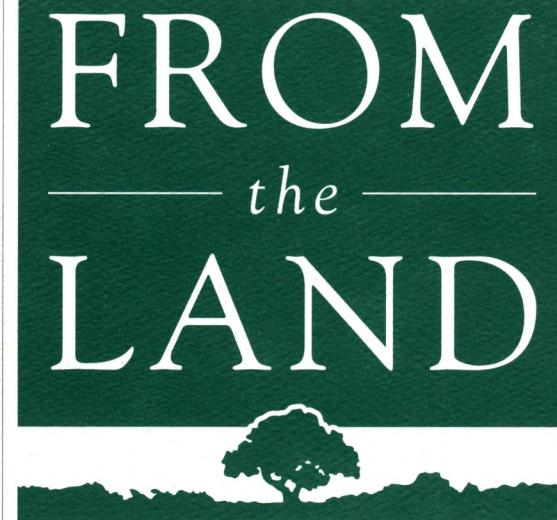


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## Mount Riga, Inc. Donates 418-Acre Easement

**M**ount Riga, Inc. of Sharon in December donated the largest conservation easement the chapter has ever acquired.

Covering approximately 418 acres of wild land in Salisbury, the easement lies between Mount Washington Road and the National Park Service boundary of the Appalachian Trail, and protects part of the trail's scenic corridor. The 418 acres include Bald Peak, Bingham Pond and the extensive wetlands associated with the pond.

Fourteen plants on the state's "Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern" list are found on the property. The Nature Conservancy will monitor and seek to protect the rare species found on the property.

"Mount Riga, Inc. has taken a monumental step, permanently protecting from development one of Connecticut's vast and most beautiful areas," said Chapter Director Leslie N. Corey Jr.

A conservation easement — in Connecticut called a conservation restriction — is a legal agreement a property owner makes to restrict the type and amount of development that may take place on a specific piece of property. Though Mount Riga, Inc. still owns the property, the easement will protect the area from development of any sort, including building, subdividing, improving of roads, excavating, filling, or any activity that is likely to cause significant soil degradation or erosion. Mount Riga, Inc. has retained the right to cut timber in certain well defined areas.

This easement does not permit public use of the area, and prohibits the use of snowmobiles, motorcycles, bicycles or all-terrain vehicles on the property, except as necessary to maintain the area's borders. Mount Riga, Inc. may continue to allow public hiking on the Bald Peak Trail, which runs from Mount Washington Road up to the crest of Bald Peak, then east to the existing Appalachian Trail.

Corey added that particular credit for this donation should go to Donald T. Warner, former president of Mount Riga, Inc.; Alice S. Combes, president of Mount Riga, Inc.; Martha McCabe, chair of the company's Land Use Committee; and Anne G.W. Paley, assistant secretary of the corporation. In 1989 Ms. Paley conducted an environmental inventory, which provided guidance to the Land Use Committee of Mount Riga, Inc.

The Conservancy would also like to thank Mark H. Sullivan of Canterbury and John E. Bean of Central

Connecticut State University for donating their survey of the property. Both men received Certificates of Special Recognition at the chapter's annual meeting in October. (For more on this exciting acquisition, please see "From the Director," page 2.)

Mount Riga, Inc. is a family-owned corporation with origins going back to the 1880s. The corporation is strongly committed to the preservation of wild and open spaces in Connecticut.

— JOHN MATTHIESSEN



## CONNECTICUT'S WILDEST CORNER

Many towns in Connecticut have at least one or two large undeveloped parcels that are privately owned, but serve the community as a vital greenway or de facto park. The property might provide a beautiful vista or glimpse of wildlife to those who regularly pass by, generations of neighborhood kids might have fished in one of its streams, or the property owners might allow hikers to enjoy old logging trails.

It can often come as a tremendous shock to the community to discover that the owners of a particular treasured place have their own priorities, needs and legal rights. Often, the owners or their heirs might not want to develop their property, but are forced to because of estate tax or other financial considerations. Lands owned by an association or club, several families, or individuals might be split up as a result of disagreements. In other cases, the owners, or a new generation of owners, may simply decide that the time is right to realize a financial gain on their holdings.

The residents of northwestern Connecticut, and indeed the entire state, are very fortunate that one of Connecticut's landmark private open space tracts, Mount Riga and adjoining lands, has been owned for many decades by a group of families that have been motivated primarily by a common ideal to see this remarkable natural area preserved.

In the early part of this century, three families slowly assembled ownership of more than 4,000 acres in northwestern Connecticut containing some of this state's most rugged and beautiful terrain. Under the stewardship of the families' Mount Riga Corporation, the forest and wetlands flourished, and now contain some of the more important natural communities in the state, hosting over a dozen state-listed endangered plant species and an abundance of wildlife.

It has also remained an important part of the community, providing a stunning visual backdrop for many beautiful Salisbury landscapes, and for the Appalachian Trail. The corporation has permitted the building of several seasonal homes for member families, has sold some of the land to government agencies for conservation and recreation purposes, but has maintained the vast majority of the property in its natural state.

As reported in this issue, members of the Mt. Riga Corporation have now ensured the permanent preservation of more than 400 acres of the most ecologically sensitive portions of their property by donating a conservation restriction on them to The Nature Conservancy. While there can be significant tax savings for many landowners making such a donation, the Mount Riga Corporation will not realize any such savings, and are acting solely to establish the strongest degree of protection possible for these lands.

The Nature Conservancy was a logical partner for the corporation in this endeavor. Our abundant experience and flexibility in crafting land preservation arrangements of all sorts, our ability to accommodate an owner's need for privacy and confidentiality, and our constantly evolving capacity for studying and managing critical habitats enable us to assist property owners in accomplishing as many of their objectives as possible.

We are honored to have been entrusted by the Mt. Riga Corporation to help fulfill their vision for the preservation of Connecticut's wildest corner. I hope this spectacular gift will inspire other landowners and communities to take action to save their own most treasured places...before it is too late.

— LES COREY  
Vice President and  
Executive Director



*"I hope this spectacular gift will inspire other landowners and communities to take action to save their own most treasured places...before it is too late."*

On the Cover:  
Black bear cub. Black bears and many other species are found on the Mount Riga easement property.

Protecting Land  
Through Trade Lands

The Connecticut Chapter had a particularly successful 1994 in the area of trade lands, producing considerable funds for our conservation work in Connecticut.

A trade land is a donation of real estate that is not of environmental significance, but which The Nature Conservancy can resell, using the proceeds for conservation work.

In August, Theodore and Alice Gurney of Charlestown, R.I., donated a house in Glastonbury to the chapter. Their 3,500-square-foot, five-bedroom house on 9.3 acres on Mountain Road sold in December for \$340,000. It was the most valuable residential tradeland ever received by the Connecticut Chapter.

The chapter owes special thanks to Realtor Barbara Ashley of The Prudential Connecticut Realty Company in Glastonbury for helping complete this transaction, said Chapter Director of Land Protection Carolie Evans.

In December 1989, Gail Ripley of Bloomfield donated her property on Maple Avenue in Old Saybrook, retaining use of it through her lifetime. Miss Ripley passed away in June, and the chapter was recently able to find a buyer for the 2,000-square-foot, three-bedroom ranch house on 3.6 acres on South Cove, selling it in December for \$265,000.

The chapter transferred the Gurney property in Glastonbury and the Ripley property in Old Saybrook to their new owners with conservation restrictions to prevent any further development.

Dr. William and Joyce Lyons of Southbury have made two donations to the Conservancy. One is a conservation easement on a portion of their 273-acre farm in Vermont. The second is a trade land donation of the balance of that property, in the form of a charitable remainder unitrust, which provides income to donors through their lifetimes, and ultimately reverts to the Conservancy. The Lyons' gift will be divided equally between the Connecticut, South Carolina, and Vermont Nature Conservancy programs.

"I would like to publicly thank the donors of these properties for their generosity, and for choosing The Nature Conservancy as the recipient of their gift," said Chapter Director Leslie N. Corey Jr. "Each of these donations is a special boost to us, and catapults our work forward."

— JOHN MATTHIESSEN



## Messenger Preserve Added to McLean Refuge

In November The Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter donated the 142-acre William and Edna Messenger Preserve in Granby to the McLean Game Refuge. The preserve was donated to the Conservancy in 1974 by Edna Messenger in honor of her late husband. Typical of a second growth New England woodland, oaks, maples, hickories and hemlock trees predominate, with Beach Brook running through the property.

The McLean Game Refuge is a private nature sanctuary, part of the McLean Trust, a charitable organization based in Simsbury. Established by the late George McLean, former Governor of Connecticut (1901-1903), the refuge consists of more than 3,500 acres, with certain portions open for passive recreation. Because the McLean Refuge includes property adjoining the Messenger Preserve on two sides, a full-time preserve manager and an endowment from the McLean Trust, the decision to transfer the preserve to the refuge made sense.

The transaction was done with the permission of the Messenger family. By working with other conservation organizations, such as the McLean Game Refuge, The Nature Conservancy is able to assure each of its preserves will receive the best stewardship possible. Having an on-site land manager will increase the attention given to the preserve, and the Conservancy, having retained a legal interest in the land, will remain involved at the site.

The cooperation of all parties involved is an example of how working with partners can be helpful, particularly when it benefits protected land such as the Messenger Preserve. We applaud the generosity and foresight of the Messenger Family for their gift of land and thank the McLean Game Refuge for taking on the management of the preserve.

— DAVID GUMBART

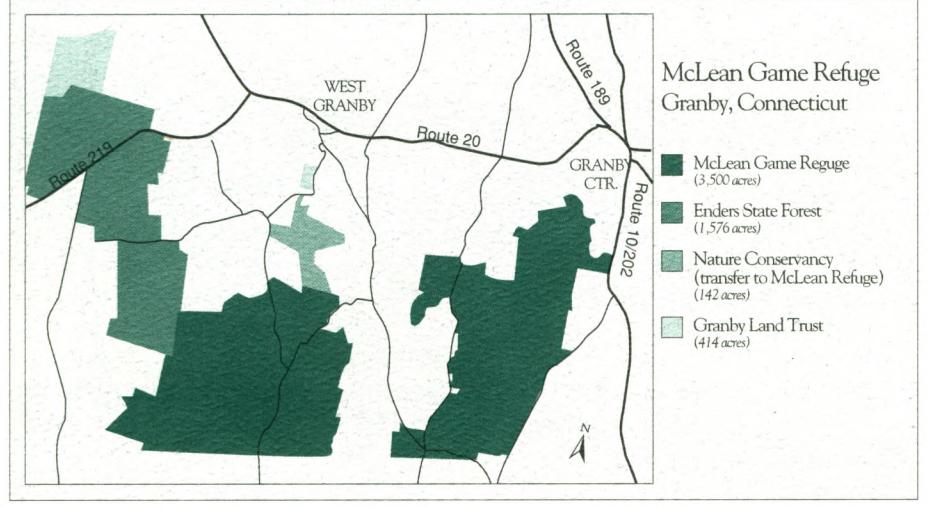
### The Nature Conservancy At Work

	Worldwide	Connecticut
Total Transactions:	16,000	648
Total Acres Protected:	7,546,000	20,305
Total Acres Registered:	454,000	6,117
Total Acres Saved:	8,000,000	26,422
Members:	773,543	17,542
Corporate Associates:	1,420	23



### McLean Game Refuge Granby, Connecticut

- McLean Game Refuge (3,500 acres)
- Enders State Forest (1,576 acres)
- Nature Conservancy (transfer to McLean Refuge) (142 acres)
- Granby Land Trust (414 acres)



Theodore and Alice Gurney recently donated a house in Glastonbury to the Conservancy, the most valuable residential tradeland ever received by the Connecticut Chapter.

### Say Something Wild to Your Accountant!

If you have your income taxes done by an accountant or tax preparer, this year remind him or her that you want to donate part or all of any refund on your state income taxes to the Endangered Species, Natural Area Preserves and Nonharvested Wildlife programs at the state Department of Environmental Protection and

### Save Something on Your Taxes!

Cut out this ad out and give it to your tax preparer as a reminder to make your gift.

Henry Thorpe.

## Preserve Monitoring

In mid-September, the Connecticut Chapter held a workshop for current and future preserve monitors. The workshop focused on increasing the participants' knowledge of the kinds of stewardship issues the Conservancy deals with, and how they can help oversee our extensive protected land.

The workshop detailed how monitors assist Conservancy staff in record keeping, resolving management issues, and working with land trusts and land owners. We discussed the importance of keeping an open and precise line of communication, because problems addressed in a timely manner are easier to resolve.

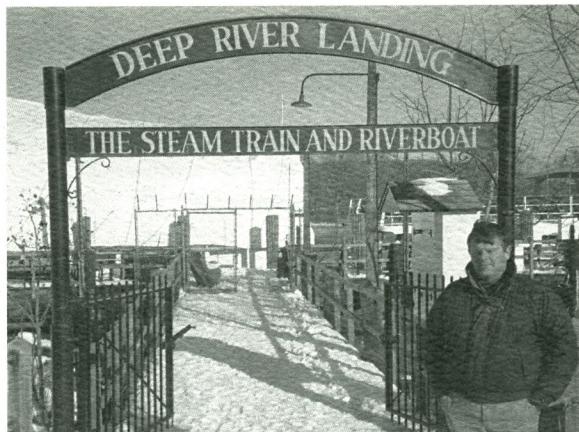
We also conducted a brief overview of map and compass use, and are planning an "in-the-field" map and compass session next spring. We are also planning future workshops to continue forging a strong link between staff and volunteer monitors.

The Nature Conservancy depends heavily on its volunteer monitors. To be active at each of the approximately 150 sites in our portfolio is an overwhelming task for the stewardship staff. Volunteers can give each site a level of attention that would otherwise be impossible. In addition to visiting sites and providing an extra set of eyes and ears, the monitors keep track of visits and communications with land owners, compiling a history of each preserve.

Currently, the majority of our sites have monitors. However, if you are interested in learning more about the program and would like to have your name put on a list for future monitoring opportunities, please call Marlene Kopcha at (203) 344-0716.

— MARLENE L. KOPCHA &  
DAVID GUMBART

## Local Businessman Pitches In for the Tidelands



**H**enry Thorpe, Vice President of Deep River Navigation, has offered use of his boats, time and talent to the Connecticut Chapter to help us pursue our conservation program in the Tidelands area.

Thorpe has a deep concern for the protection of the beauty of the river and for the habitats of the rare species that live in the Tidelands area. His boat captains, Al Yeomans, Steve Lee, Geoff Woods and Chip Briscoe are all knowledgeable about the tidal river and its history. And in addition to his expertise and enthusiasm, Briscoe also holds a degree in limnology, the study of freshwater environments.

A native of Maine, Thorpe enlisted in the United States Coast Guard in 1966 and served for four years at a search and rescue station, receiving his Ship Master's license.

In the summer of 1972 he came to the Connecticut River to work as a captain on a passenger boat, and during subsequent summer college vacations he continued to work

## Wired!

**A**re you interested in accessing Conservancy news through the latest technology? All you need is a computer, a modem, and software available free-of-charge from America Online. Once an America Online subscriber, you will have instant access to all its services, including The Nature Conservancy's new forum where you can chat with

on the river. Captivated by the beauty and serenity of the river and by the variety of species taking up residence along its shores, Thorpe decided to stay. In the ensuing decades, he built a successful tour boat operation on the river.

On the evening of September 19, 1994, Thorpe made his boat the *Silver Star* available for the launching party for the chapter's Charter Oak Council. The Council has been formed to recognize those members of The Nature Conservancy

Connecticut Chapter who contribute \$1,000 or more annually to support our operating budget. More than 100 guests enjoyed the beautiful sunset as the *Silver Star* cruised gently along the river.

On October 14, the Connecticut River's tidal region was designated as Wetlands of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention. Thorpe helped celebrate this occasion by providing a boat tour of the wetlands of the lower Connecticut River to those attending the official announcement, including local, state and federal officials as well as interested local residents.

To encourage others who contribute time and resources to the Conservancy, Thorpe has invited anyone with a receipt indicating time spent as a volunteer at a Conservancy work party in the Tidelands region to a ride aboard a Deep River Navigation vessel at no cost.

These contributions not only show Thorpe's generosity, but also his volunteer spirit, which is vital to the success of conservation work.

— MARIAN MOORE

fellow members, Talk To The [Nature Conservancy magazine] Editor, or ask questions about nature and the Conservancy. You can also find out where volunteers are needed locally or browse our travel and marketplace listing for interesting destinations and gift ideas. For more information, please call America Online at (800) 827-6364. If you're already online, electronic mail may be sent to Connecticut Field office staff at CT.OakLeaf@aol.com.

— CAROL T. KRUPA



### Volunteers Clean Plymouth Rock

Stefanie Iacovello, Cristina Celli, Erica Nodine, and Shawna Durley (left to right), volunteers from the Terryville High School Environmental Club, help clean graffiti from rocks on the Buttermilk Falls Preserve in Plymouth last November. Supplies for this work were donated by the Terryville True Value Hardware Store. Thanks, Terryville!



State Archaeologist Dr. Nicholas Bellantoni (second from left) and Dr. John Pfeiffer, president of the Archaeological Society of Connecticut, examine a visible section of a shipwreck discovered on the chapter's Griswold Point Preserve in Old Lyme on December 2. Ground-penetrating radar shows the wreck, which is speculated to date to the War of 1812, to be at least 100 feet long. Approximately 50 eighth-grade volunteers from Lyme/Old Lyme Middle School helped cover the wreck with sandbags for the winter.

### "Traprock Ridge Workshop": Easy for You to Say!

On March 18 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., the Land Conservation Coalition for Connecticut and University of Connecticut Extension Service are cosponsoring a workshop, "The Traprock Ridges of Connecticut."

Connecticut's traprock ridges are among the most outstanding visual characteristics of the central part of the state. The ridges are the remains of old lava flows that extend along the state's central valley from New Haven north into Massachusetts, and also along the Pomperaug Valley from Southbury to Woodbury. They are a natural Central Park for these valleys offering beautiful scenery, air conditioning and recreational opportunities. They are also a source of drinking water for millions, and of traprock for construction.

This workshop is an opportunity to consider future planning for the ridges. Speakers will provide an overview of the many uses of the ridges, and explore ways local groups can achieve a balance among them. The workshop's highlight will be a presentation of success stories from local groups, which will report on how they developed effective plans and tools for insuring future benefits from the ridges.

The workshop will be held on March 18, 1995 at the Northeast Utilities main office building in Berlin. For more information, please call Leslie Kane at (203) 344-0716.

### Farewell to Pat!

The Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter is sorry to say goodbye to one of its employees who has been with us the longest. In November, Pat Anderson took a new job as assistant to the dean of the college at Wesleyan University, right here in Middletown. In this position, Pat will pursue a long-held goal of working with young people in an educational setting.

Pat held a variety of positions in her nearly 12 years at The Nature Conservancy. Her most recent job, which she assumed in November of 1992, was development coordinator for annual giving. This position put her in charge of the chapter's vital annual fund, the Acorn program, and helping to launch the new Charter Oak Council. Before that, Pat had served as executive assistant to Chapter Directors Kent Olson from 1983 to 1986 and Leslie N. Corey Jr. from 1986 to 1992.

With her many friends at the chapter and her interest in conservation, Pat will keep in touch, and continue as volunteer preserve monitor for the Chapman Pond Preserve in East Haddam. Pat is currently a volunteer director of the East Haddam Land Trust.

Always a cheerful face and a diligent worker, Pat will be missed at the Connecticut Chapter. Good luck, Pat!



Pat Anderson putting in some volunteer hours at Chapman Pond.



## Woolly Bully

### Tiny Adelgid Can Cause Mammoth Damage

#### Intern Maps Nuisance Plants

Of the numerous threats to Connecticut's natural ecological systems, perhaps the most pernicious is the risk imposed by nuisance species: plants or animals that are out of equilibrium with their native habitat and therefore threaten to alter the natural diversity in a given area. Many of these species are in fact quite attractive, such as the mute swan (*Cygnus olor*) and purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) — but they are not native to North America.

In an effort to develop baseline information on nuisance plants, intern Raye Hodgson spent more than 200 hours last summer hiking, canoeing, and wading through 12 Conservancy preserves. Among her findings was the fact that all 12 sites had been invaded by nuisance plants.

"Even at one seemingly remote site, there were large patches of invasive species," she said. "I expected the worst problems to be in more recently disturbed areas, but that was not always the case."

Hodgson produced detailed maps of each site showing precise locations of as many as fourteen species of nuisance plants. "Her maps will help us determine which weeds are threatening our most important preserves," said Beth Lapin, the chapter's biomonitoring specialist. "This will enable us to establish a plan of attack for controlling them."

Hodgson, a recent University of Connecticut graduate, said her positive experience as a Conservancy intern helped her gain her current position as Office and Program Manager of the Mill River Wetland Committee, Inc., a non-profit environmental organization in Milford. The Conservancy is equally appreciative of her efforts. "She did a wonderful job," said Lapin. "I just showed her the sites, gave her some initial ideas, and she did the rest. She was extremely creative and self-motivated."

— ANDY CUTKO

(See page 8 for a listing of additional student interns who have recently contributed to Conservancy projects.)

**T**he ghosts of hemlock forests haunt the slopes flanking the Connecticut River. Hemlock woolly adelgid (*Adelges tsugae*), a tiny but destructive exotic insect, has arrived. The adelgid reached Connecticut's coast in 1985; the first adelgids are believed to have been blown across Long Island Sound by Hurricane Gloria. In addition to stress from a number of factors including gypsy moth, hemlock looper, hemlock scale (two other hemlock parasites), and climatic changes, the spreading infestation has left many large areas of hemlock forest dead or dying.

The hemlock woolly adelgid is a small piercing and sucking aphid-like insect native to Asia. Its name is derived from a white woolly wax resembling the tips of cotton swabs, which surrounds the species, especially its egg masses, for most of its life. It lives off eastern hemlock in the northeast United States, Carolina hemlock in the southeastern United States, and both hemlock and spruce in Japan.

Research indicates that wind, birds, deer and humans play an important role in the adelgid's dispersal. Birds are an especially important vehicle for dispersal, because bird feeders are in such high use throughout the northeast and the Connecticut River basin is an important migration flyway. Birds and deer carry adelgids and their eggs on their bodies. Human activi-

ties such as logging and nursery operations also may contribute to their dispersal.

For individual infected trees, spraying the branches with dormant oil is effective. This is not practical for large tracts of forest, however, because of the difficulty in reaching all infested branches, and it does not prevent reinfection. Due to these limitations for protecting forest stands from the adelgid, biological controls are being investigated. Suggested management practices are being compiled through efforts of the U.S. Forest Service in Hamden.

The chapter normally leaves dead hemlocks on its preserves standing, because they provide habitat for a variety of species, and add nutrients to the soil when they fall and rot. Moreover, cutting and removing them is very disruptive to an area.

The chapter made an exception at one preserve, however. At Turtle Creek in Essex, a number of dead or dying hemlocks were located along a boundary line quite close to several private homes. Fearing that trees might fall during storms or due to weakness, both the private landowners and the Conservancy began cutting trees in August.

With the assistance of a forestry consultant, the Conservancy coordinated a plan to cut approximately 100 trees in a 550 foot stretch. Trees were also cut on neighboring property in cooperation with the land owners. To help with the cost of the \$5,000 project, the neighbors agreed to pay a portion of this price based on the number of trees cut on their land.

The project itself took only one week to complete with all cut trees removed from the preserve. To help reestablish vegetation in this area, the chapter has scheduled a work party April 6 to 8 (see page 11) to plant white pine trees. Besides improving the area's appearance, it will also help prevent the spread of invasive plant species that could colonize disturbed areas. 

— BETH LAPIN & DAVE GUMBART



The hemlock woolly adelgid. 

## Belligerent Beauty of the Bogs

**I**t's a beautiful magenta spike of flowers that spreads like wildfire throughout freshwater wetlands, displacing natural vegetation such as sedges, cattails and grasses. It's purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), a native of Eurasia that has been spreading in North America since its introduction in the early 19th century. In some areas, acres and acres of wetlands have been converted to meadows of purple loosestrife. Studies show it to be of little value to wildlife as food or shelter.

Purple loosestrife is an herbaceous perennial that normally grows to about four feet high, but can reach ten feet in nutrient-rich areas. Each flower has five to seven petals; the flowers occur in dense clusters on terminal spikes. In Connecticut, peak flowering is in late July and early August. Each stalk produces as many as 300,000 seeds, and as many as 80,000 stalks per acre have been reported in densely infested areas. It's easy to understand how the plant can quickly spread and dominate many acres of land!

In Connecticut, purple loosestrife is present in many freshwater wetlands. Nels Barrett, recipient of one of the chapter's Conservation Biology Research grants, has studied the role of stress and disturbance related to freshwater tidal wetland vegetation. Like other aggressive species, purple loosestrife may be opportunistic, thriving in wetlands that have been dug up, or dumped in.

Some commercial plant nurseries sell cultivars (hybrids) of purple loosestrife, stating they are sterile. However, research has shown that, although these cultivars cannot self-reproduce, they are fertile when crossed with wild populations of purple loosestrife. It is unclear how much this contributes to the spread of loosestrife in the wild, but we strongly suggest that people refrain from planting the species.

Control of purple loosestrife is difficult. Pulling or digging may be successful in small patches, but risks leaving roots that can resprout, and disturbance of the soil

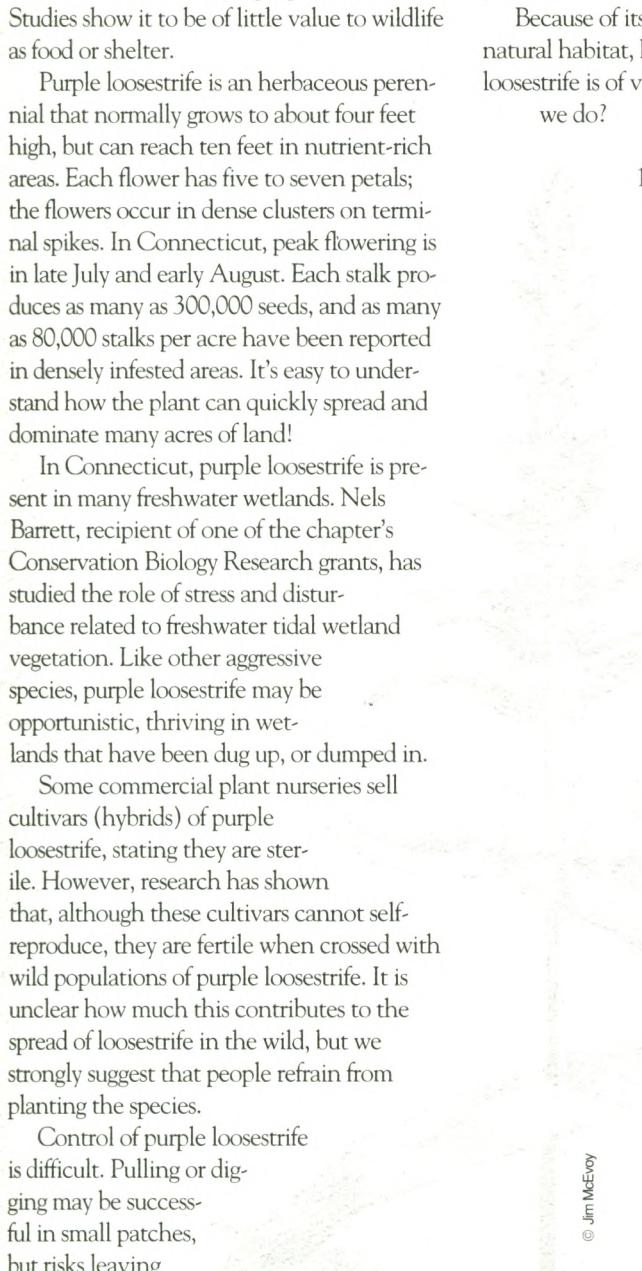
can allow new infestations. Herbicides have been used, but they are not selective, and may have other impacts on the environment.

A recent breakthrough took place in the area of biological control: several European insects that eat the plant passed rigorous tests of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and are being released in the wild. Their effectiveness cannot be assessed for several more years.

Because of its severe impact on important natural habitat, halting the spread of purple loosestrife is of vital importance. What can we do?

1. Avoid buying and planting purple loosestrife.
2. Avoid disturbing wetlands.
3. Root for those bugs. Go bugs! 

— BETH LAPIN



© Jim McEvoy

Pictured above:  
Chapter Biological  
Monitoring and  
Management Specialist  
Beth P. Lapin with a  
collection of Japanese stilt  
grass pulled last summer.



## The Stilt Grass Struggle

**I**t has become clear that Japanese stilt grass (*Microstegium vimineum*) has joined the ranks of tough invasive species. The Nature Conservancy must deal with it in Connecticut.

Japanese stilt grass is an invasive species that recently reached Connecticut; it was first noted at Chapman Pond in East Haddam on the Connecticut River in 1991. From two small areas at this 60-acre freshwater tidal pond and marshes, the plant expanded to cover the banks of one feeder stream to the pond, several upland pockets, and an open floodplain peninsula.

In 1993, chapter staff measured, marked, and photographed twelve patches of stilt grass: six in upland areas, five in riparian areas, and one in a floodplain. Nine of these patches (three in uplands, five in riparian areas and one in a floodplain area) were treated by pulling all plants by hand and bagging seeded material.

Photographs showed the numbers of stilt grass plants decreased due to pulling. Other data collected were difficult to analyze because of the persistence of seeds in the soil and addition of seeds from plants upstream. However, staff felt that pulling was a successful, albeit time-consuming, way to control Japanese stilt grass.

Chapter staff continued pulling the grass by hand in 1994, and began pulling in new areas. The patches will again be measured and photographed and pulled with the help of volunteers in 1995. 

— BETH LAPIN



## Natural History Walks

### Sign Up Today! Space is Limited.

#### Interns at Work

Student interns have recently contributed valuable effort to Conservancy projects:

Darryl Brose (Wesleyan University): *Site Conservation Plan for Beckley Bog Preserve, Norfolk.*

Jim Dlubac (Union College): *Population study of Piritan tiger beetle.*

Laura Giannotti (University of New Haven): *Chester Creek mapping project.*

Elisabeth Grinspoon, Kristen Needham, Kristin Saltonstall (Yale University): *Analysis of threats to Round and Boggy Meadows, Cromwell.*

Andrew Krupa (University of Connecticut): *Research on charitable foundations.*

William Moorcraft (University of Vermont): *Tidelands easement research.*

Susan Noonberg, John Brennick (Yale University): *Economic analysis of tourism industry of the lower Connecticut River.*

Jessica Spelke (University of Massachusetts): *Site Conservation Plan for Selden Creek.*

Deanna Xistris (Bard College): *Management strategy for shortnose sturgeon.*



Dorothy Millen was recently promoted to the position of Development Coordinator for Annual Giving. She will work to advance our annual giving programs, including Acorn and Charter Oak membership. Dot will also design and implement special events for members. Dot has been with the Connecticut Chapter for seven years and brings comprehensive knowledge and experience in membership and special events to her work.

**C**ome join us as we explore some of the most beautiful preserves Connecticut has to offer! The Nature Conservancy's Natural History Walks are fun and informative. You'll learn about natural history and stewardship issues, such as the control of exotic species, as well as the ecology of the Tidelands of the Connecticut River region. You'll also get lots of fresh air and exercise, and meet other chapter members who share your interest!

Because we wish to provide a high quality experience, participation is limited to 20 people per excursion, unless otherwise noted. Please call Science and Stewardship Assistant Jean Cox at (203) 344-0716 to register. A map to the meeting place and other information will be mailed to you shortly before the walk. We will go rain or shine.

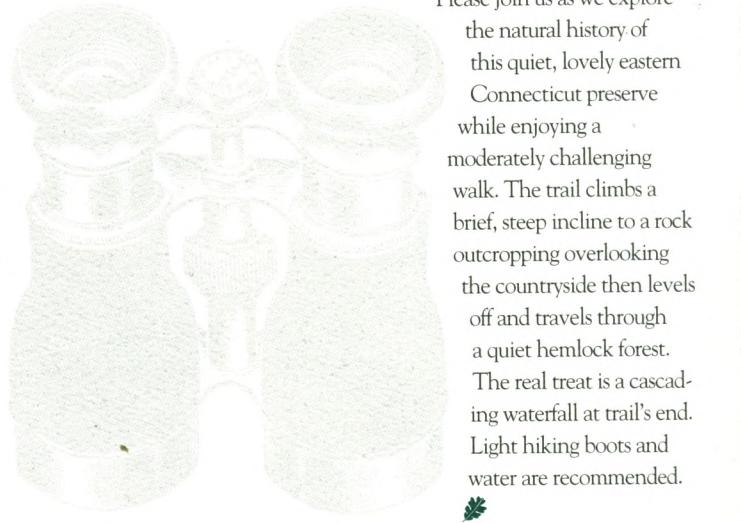
**PLEASE NOTE:** Boat trips require your own canoe or kayak and a personal flotation device for everyone in your party.

**The Birds of Selden Creek, Lyme**  
Saturday, May 20, 7 a.m. to 9 a.m.  
Limited to 15.

Join us at our new 207-acre addition to this lovely preserve and spend the morning with birds and wildflowers. Migrating song birds, particularly warblers, will be the highlight. Binoculars and enthusiasm are essential, but no previous birding experience is needed!

**The Flowers of Haddam Meadows, Haddam**  
Saturday, June 10  
10 a.m. to noon.  
Limited to 12.

Our easy stroll through the meadows will be greeted by an array of colors and scents as the flowers of early summer fill the fields. If possible, participants should bring a copy of "Newcomb's Wildflower Guide." Sunscreen, water, and bug protection are recommended.



**Ragged Rock, Old Saybrook**  
Saturday, July 15, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.  
Limited to 15 boats.

Come explore the chapter's new acquisition of tidal wetlands next to North Cove in Old Saybrook. We will talk about the elements of a healthy tidal marsh community, threats to the system, and stewardship of this special Tidelands preserve. Be sure to bring sunscreen and water.

**Pratt/Post Coves, Deep River**  
Saturday, August 19, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.  
Limited to 15 boats.

Join us for a leisurely paddle (canoe or kayak) through these two adjacent freshwater tidal marshes. We'll wind our way through wild rice and bull lilies, examine distinctive vegetation zones, and discuss the chapter's ongoing research, management, and protection efforts at this key Tidelands site. Sunscreen and insect repellent strongly recommended.

**Cathedral Pines: The Life, Death and Rebirth of an Old Growth Forest, Cornwall**  
Saturday, September 9, 10 a.m. to noon.

In ten minutes in July 1989, three funnel clouds changed the course of Connecticut's largest stand of old growth pine and hemlock trees. Far from finding it discouraging, ecologists seek out this site to better understand the dynamics of forest succession — the slow process of regrowth and rejuvenation. Join us on a short, moderate walk to see the blowdown and learn more about the history of this fascinating site.

**Ayer's Gap, Franklin**  
Saturday, October 21, 10 a.m. to noon.

Please join us as we explore the natural history of this quiet, lovely eastern Connecticut preserve while enjoying a moderately challenging walk. The trail climbs a brief, steep incline to a rock outcropping overlooking the countryside then levels off and travels through a quiet hemlock forest. The real treat is a cascading waterfall at trail's end. Light hiking boots and water are recommended.

## New Chapter Acorns

We are pleased to announce that the chapter gained 295 new Acorn members in 1994! Acorn members directly support the Conservancy through a minimum annual contribution of \$100 in support of the Connecticut Chapter's operations — all the day-to-day activities that make it possible for us to save land.

Our thanks to all who joined as Acorns in 1994, and to those generous Acorns who renewed or upgraded their support.

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Frank & Karen Ahern  
B.M. Albanese  
Mr. Jack Alexander  
Mr. & Mrs. Eric Alliot  
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Ms. Susan D. Andrus  
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We have made every effort to make this list accurate, but if there are errors or omissions, we'd like to hear from you.

## Charter Oak Council Going Strong!

We have more than 65 members of our new Charter Oak Council. If you would like to be listed as a founding member in our summer issue, please join us today. Charter Oak Council members make a one-time annual unrestricted gift of \$1000 or more. Thank you!

## Grassi Elected to Conservancy Board of Governors



© Lisa Shable

Anthony P. Grassi

### Wish List

Chapter members have been very generous in lending and donating useful items to us. Any in-kind donation is tax-deductible. Some of our current needs are:

- 20" chain saw with chain stop safety feature.
- Chain saw safety equipment: hard hat with face screen, hearing protection, Kevlar chaps.
- Hazel hoes (also called a grub hoe); a short hoe with six-inch-wide blade.
- Pick mattocks; pick with adze blade on one side.
- Pruning loppers (stout cutting tool) with "anvil" type cutting surface; preferably gear driven to cut extra-thick limbs.
- Pole pruner, a pruning tool for high limbs.
- Cellular phone for "in-the-field" emergencies.
- 3.5 horsepower motor for canoe
- Camcorder

Please call (203) 344-0716 if you would like to donate any of these items.



Art Titus

**A**nthony P. Grassi of Wilton, chairman of The Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter's Board of Trustees for three years, has been elected to the Conservancy's national board of governors.

Grassi will continue to chair the Connecticut Chapter Board of Trustees, of which he has been a member since October 1991, and chairman since October 1992. He also serves as chairman of the preserve advisory committee and farm subcommittee of the chapter's Sunny Valley Preserve in New Milford and Bridgewater.

"I am delighted to expand my involvement and responsibility in The Nature Conservancy," Grassi said. "Both in Connecticut and nationally, it's a dynamic organization, with many challenges and opportunities before it."

Grassi attended his first board of governor's meeting on December 9 in Washington D.C. The board meets on a quarterly basis, including The Nature Conservancy's national annual meeting. There are currently 39 governors, counting Nature Conservancy President and Chief Executive Officer John C. Sawhill.

"The Nature Conservancy Board of Governors has the ultimate responsibility for the financial, legal and programmatic activi-

ties of The Nature Conservancy," said Nature Conservancy General Counsel Michael Dennis. "They are the ultimate authority on policy decisions, influencing the major directions of the Conservancy, and have final approval over the organization's operating plan and budget."

A graduate of Princeton University and Harvard Business School, Grassi is retired chief financial and administrative officer of CS First Boston Inc., New York City, where he worked from 1976 to 1991. He is former chairman of The First Boston Corporation's investment banking and management committees. Grassi is a member of Wilton's Conservation Commission, a trustee of the Wilton Land Conservation Trust and the New Canaan Country School, vice chairman of American Rivers, and on the national advisory council of the Trust for Public Land.

"Tony has been a superb chapter chairman, and a good friend to the Connecticut Chapter," said Chapter Director Leslie N. Corey Jr. "The Nature Conservancy is very fortunate to have people of this caliber ready to serve on the national board of governors, ready to get involved in conservation on the national and international levels."

— LESLIE LEMAY

### VOLUNTEER PROFILE

**A**rt Titus dropped by Sunny Valley Preserve in the late summer of 1993. He visited with Preserve Director Chris Wood, whom he knew as a fellow member of the Western Connecticut Bird Club. After they discussed their latest birding activities and the happenings at the preserve, Art asked if there was anything he could do to help, because he had some time now that he was retired. Well, that was the beginning.

Since then, Art has volunteered an average of 20 hours per week at Sunny Valley. He has helped re-blaze and maintain trails, cared for the office building and grounds, built and monitored blue bird boxes, led bird walks, driven the tractor for the Open Farm Day hayrides, and watched the fields, forests, and skies for new and different avian guests. As an avid bird watcher, Art has spotted several new bird species on the preserve.

Art was a poultry farmer and a postal service carrier in Newtown, and later a caretaker at Harrybrook Park in New Milford before he retired and became a Sunny Valley Preserve volunteer. Art has volunteered at some of the chapter's other preserves as well, traveling with Sunny Valley Preserve Manager Wayne Woodard to work on special projects at sites across the state.

Art brings many and diverse skills to his work, but it is his gentle spirit, dedication and willingness to help on a wide variety of tasks that are most valuable. In recognition of his valuable contributions, Art received the chapter's White Oak award at this year's annual meeting. We are grateful to Art for his help with our progress at Sunny Valley Preserve.

— MARGARET McCUALEY

For more information on any of the work parties, call Marlene Kopcha or David Gumbart at (203) 344-0716. Some work parties are for a limited number of participants.

For more information on activities at the Katharine Ordway or Devil's Den Preserves in Weston, please call (203) 226-4991.

For more information on activities at the Sunny Valley Preserve in New Milford and Bridgewater, please call (203) 355-3716.

Griswold Point Work Party, Old Lyme Saturday, March 25, 10 a.m.

Prepare the area for the arrival of piping plovers and least terns.

Workday, Devil's Den Preserve, Weston Saturday, March 25, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.  
Help us get the trails ready for spring!

Saugatuck Valley Trails Day Hike Sunday, April 2, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

A walk from the west branch of the Saugatuck to the east. Bring a lunch for this ten-mile hike. Call Devil's Den for directions.

Tree and Shrub Identification Walk Katharine Ordway Preserve, Weston Sunday, April 2, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.  
Leader: Silvia Erskine

Turtle Creek Work Party, Essex Thursday through Saturday, April 6 - 8  
Dig up, transport and transplant white pines to replace the hemlocks destroyed by the woolly adelgid (See page 6).

Herp Search, Devil's Den Preserve, Weston Friday, April 7, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.  
Join Nelson Gelfman for a nocturnal search for frogs and salamanders. Bring a flashlight and waterproof footwear.

Earth Day Week, April 16 through 22  
20% discount available to members at all Nature Company stores. Call 1-800-227-1114 for the store location nearest you.

.....

### Every Member Get A Member! Won't you take a moment...

For Earth Day "25" I would like to give a gift membership to:

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

\$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_ \$35.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Every Member Get A Member!  
Your kind gesture will be acknowledged.

Please mail to: The Nature Conservancy, 55 High Street, Middletown, CT 06457-3788.

Workday, Devil's Den Preserve, Weston, Saturday, April 8, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Adult Walk, Devil's Den Preserve, Weston Tuesday, April 18, 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.  
Leaders: Mary Callahan and Doris Falk

Earth Day Hike, Devil's Den, Weston Saturday, April 22, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Ten-mile hike led by Tom Failla and Marcie Kendall. Bring a lunch.

Sketching Nature's Small Treasures Devil's Den Preserve, Weston Saturday, April 22, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.  
Artist Ellin Spadone will conduct this outdoor workshop. Limited to five participants.

Family Nature Walk Devil's Den Preserve, Weston Sunday, April 23, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.  
Leaders: Terry Gleim and Penny Kemp

Burnham Brook Preserve, East Haddam Wednesday, April 26th, 10 a.m.  
Remove the invasive Japanese barberry.

Mosses at Devil's Den Preserve, Weston Saturday, April 29, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.  
Bring a magnifying glass! Leader: Sue Roth.

Workday, Katharine Ordway Preserve, Weston, Saturday, April 29, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Help improve the arboretum and fields.

Spring Flowers at Katharine Ordway Preserve, Weston Sunday, April 30, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.  
Leader: Julia Conway

Workday, Devil's Den Preserve, Weston Sunday, April 30, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.  
Help us get keep the trails in shape.

Buttermilk Falls Preserve, Plymouth Thursday, May 4, 9 a.m.  
Continue removing graffiti from a large boulder near the waterfalls (See page 5).

## Every Member Get A Member!

Celebrate earth day by introducing someone to the interesting and important work of The Nature Conservancy!

You can do something for a friend and for Connecticut's natural areas by making someone you know a member of The Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter.

April 20 is the 25th anniversary of Earth Day. Celebrate this milestone with a gift membership to The Nature Conservancy!

Just imagine, if every member recruits a member, we'll have twice as many people helping to save our state's rarest species. 17,000 members could become 34,000.

Members are the foundation of our conservation work, and YOU have a role to play, strengthening that foundation.

For just \$25, you can make a friend, a family member or a co-worker a member of The Nature Conservancy for one year.

Your gift will provide a complete membership, which includes:

A subscription to our quarterly Connecticut Chapter newsletter, *From The Land*, containing current news, activities, and calendar of upcoming events.

A subscription to our bimonthly full color national magazine, *Nature Conservancy*, highlighting many national and international efforts.

Connecticut Chapter members are automatically national members as well.

Won't you take a moment and fill out the enclosed membership form and send it to us, as a gift to your friend, to us, to the Earth, and to yourself. Your kind gesture will be acknowledged.



The Nature Conservancy 

Connecticut Chapter  
55 High Street  
Middletown, CT 06457-3788  
(203) 344-0716  
FAX (203) 344-1334

National Office: 1815 North Lynn Street,  
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From The Land 

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## State Bond Commission's Triple Play

The state Bond Commission approved funding for three vital Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust land acquisition projects of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in December.

The commission approved \$250,000 for the DEP to help the Conservancy purchase a parcel that will nearly triple the size of the chapter's Selden Creek Preserve. The state will receive a conservation restriction on the property, which is adjacent to 600-acre Selden Island State Park.

In September 1994, the chapter signed an option to purchase the 207-acre tract on Selden Creek from Ferdinand W. Couder of Lyme for \$1.03 million, a price significantly below its fair market value. The financial assistance from the state is essential, because to cover the purchase and closing costs and to create a preserve endowment, the chapter needs to raise \$1.4 million, the largest fund-raising goal for an individual preserve in the chapter's history.

The Bond Commission also approved \$1.2 million for the DEP to purchase a 165-acre parcel on the Connecticut River in Cromwell. This tract features more than half a mile of frontage along the river, much of which consists of dramatic bluffs,

some as high as 100 feet, overlooking the river and DEP's Wangunk Meadows Wildlife Management area on the other side. A stream running through the forested property steeply descends to the river in a very unusual geologic feature known as "the blowhole," a 100-foot-high cut in the bluffs that emits strange sounds and water flows when the river's tidal influence forces water up through the narrow ravine.

The Bond Commission also voted to fund the DEP purchase of 22 acres of an Atlantic white cedar bog and pitch pine/scrub oak forest in Windham. The parcel shares these habitats, which are very unusual in Connecticut, with an abutting 65 acres that are being purchased by the Joshua's Tract Conservation and Historic Trust. The area abuts the Mansfield Hollow State Park.

The Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Fund is a bonding program through which the DEP has acquired more than 10,000 acres of critical open space since 1987. The Land Conservation Coalition for Connecticut, of which the chapter is a founding member, is the major proponent of the Trust Fund. 

— DAVID SUTHERLAND



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Connecticut Chapter  
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